

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Istook Supports Seniors' Full Social Security

Washington, D.C. -- Today, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) voted with the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives, 422-0, to allow seniors to work without losing any Social Security benefits.

Almost half a million senior citizens in Oklahoma stand to benefit from the passage of H.R. 5, "The Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act."

Currently, from ages 65 to 70, seniors lose \$1 in benefits for every \$3 they earn beyond \$17,000. Those under age 65 lose \$1 in Social Security for every \$2 they earn beyond \$10,800.

"Hard work should be encouraged, not punished," said Istook. **"Social Security is not a welfare program that should drop off as people work to support themselves. Social Security comes from a retirement fund that we all work our whole life to build. Don't tell folks they can't have their own money back, just because they want to keep working or need to keep working."**

"I'm delighted that the President and the Democrats have dropped their opposition. Now I hope they'll quit opposing an end to the marriage penalty on husband and wife."

"In 1996, the Republican Congress reformed welfare, to promote work, not dependence. Now our state and national welfare rolls are down by half," said Istook. **"We helped families with a \$500 per child tax credit, and boosted jobs with a lower capital gains tax cut. Last month the House approved fairness for couples, voting to end the marriage penalty. Now we're removing the work penalty on senior citizens. Step-by-step, we're fixing the things that government has done wrong, to bring it back to our values."**

